

House Agricultural Affairs Committee

Minutes
2006



MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 26, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Stevenson, Bolz, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Shirley, Lake

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 24, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

RS 15718 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Feeds and Plant Services, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation would expand the duties of the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission to allow it to support research. This would also allow the hobbyist bee keeper to register on a voluntary basis for a fee of \$10.00. The Commission is authorized to publish the names and phone numbers of bee keepers, the counties in which they keep bees, and any other information it feels necessary to help prevent the accidental poisoning of honey bees.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15718 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

RS 15727 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Feeds and Plant Services, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation. The bee industry has changed so much over the years. This legislation would help manage pesticides. It will remove the requirements for mandatory inspections for honeybees, honeybee colonies, and equipment from the law. Hobbyist beekeepers are exempted from regulations and other technical corrections. This will also provide for publication the names and phone numbers of bee keepers and location of bee hives to prevent accidental poisoning of honey bees. Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming are the only states left with bee laws. Moving bees into the state will also impose a \$10.00 fee for the first 50 colonies. Each additional colony shall be assessed at a rate of ten cents per colony.

A question was asked why the hobby bee keepers are exempt. It is hard to register a hobby bee keeper as they are small.

A question was asked if there is any impact on the honey bee with the Africanized honey bee. The Africanized honey bee doesn't go north of Utah. The weather is a factor.

MOTION: Representative Bolz made a motion to introduce RS 15727 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

RS 15426 **Dr. Bob Beede**, Veterinarian, explained this legislation would revise the definition of "emergency veterinary hospital." The revised definition of emergency veterinary facility means any facility with the primary function of receiving, treating, and monitoring emergency patients during its specified hours of operation or that displays to the public any sign, card, or advertisement that indicates it is an emergency veterinary clinic or hospital. An emergency veterinary facility may be an independent after-hours service, an independent 24 hour service, or it may be part of a full-service veterinary medical facility. This would require a veterinary hospital who advertises as an emergency hospital, to have qualified personnel, including a licensed veterinarian, on the hospital premises at all times.

A question was asked if the Veterinary Board reached out to the public for their input. The Board has received phone calls from people trying to find emergency care. This would protect the smaller vets.

A question was asked if there is an emergency in a rural area what happens to the animal. In rural areas they know that the veterinarian is on call and not at the office 24 hours.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion to introduce RS 15426 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION: **Trent Clark**, Director of Public Affairs, Monsanto, gave a Power Point presentation on biotechnology in agriculture. Agriculture is using advance technology. Building on centuries of science, biotechnology is a collection of tools used to improve and enhance plants, animals, and microorganisms for the benefit of society. Science is continuously improving the quantity and quality of food production. Seventy five percent of farmers use computers. It takes ten years of research to develop a biotechnology crop. This enables farmers to raise better plants and grow more without pesticides. There are 165 countries that approve biotechnology crops. To feed the eight billion people expected by 2025, the world will have to double food production.

Biotechnology continues to advance with applications in agriculture productivity, good and nutrition, pharmaceuticals, industrial processes, bioremediation, bio-fuels, and personal care. Every gene in a plant can be sequenced and nearly every crop in the world can be transformed. Commitment to safety is the top priority through the research and development process.

A question was asked what crop is used most with biotechnology. Corn fields are 95%, 50% of cotton and 65% soy beans.

A question was asked where does the sugar beet stand now. It's a joint venture and they are waiting for their partner. Royalties are involved.

A question was asked to explain the process to genetically alter a plant. The process is done in Chesterfield and is very detailed.

RS 15409

John Chatburn, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation. This will change the CAFO definition from the old EPA standard of “animal units” to the current EPA standard of “actual animal numbers.” The Idaho Association of Counties endorses this draft of the bill.

MOTION:

Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15409 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 12, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Gold Room

MEMBERS: Chairman Field, Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Field(23), Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Jaquet

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Introduction of our newest member of the committee, Representative Brackett followed.

Subcommittee assignments were given for the rules review.
Subcommittee assignments are as follows:

CROPS

Representative Trail - Chairman
Representative Stevenson
Representative Bolz
Representative Shirley
Representative Pence

LIVESTOCK

Representative Lake - Chairman
Representative Brackett
Representative Jaquet
Representative Andrus

Subcommittee meetings will be held upon adjournment of the full committee meeting on January 16, 2006.

Chairman Field welcomed **Pat Takasugi**, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and gave him the floor for introductions of his staff who would give their presentations. The Department of Agriculture presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided a packet of information for each Committee member. A copy of both are on file in the office of the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

Dr. Greg Ledbetter, Veterinarian, gave a brief overview of the brucellosis issue in Idaho. During a routine MCI trace back in October, 2005, a brucellosis infected cattle herd was discovered in Swan Valley. The herd was quarantined and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture did an epidemiological investigation. One calf from that herd was located in Arco and tested positive. That made the second case in Idaho. The USDA notified ISDA that Idaho's brucellosis status would be reduced to a "Class

A" because of the two infected findings. The Class A status will require Idaho to perform additional brucellosis surveillance including increased frequency of brucellosis ring tests on milk from Idaho dairies, test all intact cattle over 18 months of age that are exported from Idaho, and test high risk cattle herds from eastern Idaho. This status will be in effect until December 6, 2006. Future actions of ISDA include visiting with the owners of high risk herds to discuss management changes to reduce potential exposure. ISDA will offer adult booster vaccinations to high risk herds. They will also offer to provide owners of high risk herds elk fencing material to fence cattle feeding areas and haystacks. ISDA will work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to address brucellosis in the wild elk in eastern Idaho.

John Chatburn, Deputy Administrator, reported on the beef cattle environmental program. All feedlots (beef and dairy heifer lots that are not part of a dairy) are regulated. The ISDA staff conducts routine waste and construction inspections, as well as investigating possible discharge and other complaints. Over the past five years, only seven operations have been issued notices of noncompliance. Of these, four were discharged, one was lack of containment, and 2 failed to submit NMP. Because of above average precipitation during December 2005, numerous violations and noncompliance issues are being investigated by ISDA. As of noon today, only three have been done on complaints.

The National Animal Identification System's goal is to trace-back the animal within 48 hours for disease control purposes. The key components for the animal identification are: to register premises, animal identification, and animal tracking. ISDA is conducting meetings regarding premises registration around the state. Important dates from the USDA are:

- July 2005 - all state have a premises registration system operational
- January 2008 - premises registration and animal identification required
- January 2009 - reporting of defined animal movements required; entire national program mandatory

Mike Everett, Deputy Director, reported on the 2005 Farm Worker Exposure Case in Canyon County last July. Briefly, the laws around this incident are adequate, they just weren't followed. As a result, the fines (\$42,000) will be used for outreach and training for farm workers.

Laura Johnson, Marketing Bureau Chief, reported on the success stories of international trade with Asia and Mexico.. Nearly 20% of Idaho's agriculture production is exported to foreign markets. Idaho experienced significant export growth in 2005 in fresh potatoes, seed, and dairy. Beef exports fell in 2004 and 2005 due to BSE. As markets are reopened, beef exports will increase. Overall, 2006 is projected to reach a record high for Idaho exports. Locally Paul's Markets, Wal-marts, and Albertsons participate in the Idaho Preferred program. The Idaho Preferred program is funded with a federal specialty grant which will expire this year. There is \$159,000 in the Governor's budget recommendation to continue this program. Ms. Johnson also showed a short video featuring agriculture in the classroom.

Matt Voile, Noxious Weed Program Manager, reported on Eurasian Water Milfoil. This is an invasive, submersed aquatic plant that forms very dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface, interfering with water recreation and inhibiting water flow. This has been in Idaho for 8-10 years. There are 635,000 acres of water in Idaho not including rivers. There are 251,000 acres that are highly susceptible to get Eurasian Water Milfoil. Costs and ways to destroy it include:

- Barrier method - \$75-\$1,750 per square foot
- Chemical method - \$200-\$1,150 per acre
- Diver dredging - \$200-\$900 a day
- Harvester method - \$100-\$400 an hour
- Bio-control - not available

Currently Idaho has at least 4,000 known acres infested. The estimated cost to eradicate this would be \$12 million. This would require three annual treatments in most cases.

Jerry Nicolescu, Administrator, Soil Conservation Commission, reported on the Idaho CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) program. The Idaho CREP program has gone to the USDA for approval. It is expected to be approved by the end of January. This covers 20 counties. Applications will be available April 1st. The primary goals of the ESPA CREP are to enroll up to 100,000 acres to achieve the following objectives:

- The reduction of groundwater and surface water consumptive use.
- The reduction in the amount of agricultural chemicals, non-point source contaminants, and sediment entering the waters of Idaho.
- Conservation of water in the ESPA by reducing demand.
- The reduction of the application of water for cropland irrigation by up to 200,000 acre-feet annually from current irrigation usage levels.
- The increase of groundwater levels in the ESPA and the increase of spring water discharge tributary to the Snake River
- To provide up to 100,000 additional acres of native grassland habitat for wildlife.
- To improve habitat for fish species by increasing stream flow.

The CRP contracts for acres enrolled in the ESPA CREP must be for a period of 15 years. Eligible participants in the ESPA CREP project area may also continue to offer other eligible acreage for enrollment during CRP general and CRP continuous enrollment periods.

Kelly Nielson, Financial Officer, briefly highlighted the ISDA budget. The agriculture budget managers over 60 programs and over 30 funds. The budget breakdown is 22% for the general fund, 62% dedicated fund and 16% federal fund. The federal funding has largely increased. The general fund includes: marketing enhancement, CAFO inspectors, invasive species, noxious weeds, and range operations. Items in the dedicated fund include: container recycling operations, retail egg program expansion, smoke program enhancement, weights and measures lab, nursery research, Idaho Food Quality Assurance Authority, and animal damage control. These are all included in the Governor's recommendation.

Pat Takasugi closing remarks: Idaho's number one industry is still

agriculture. The Idaho Rural Partnership Board of Directors passed a resolution endorsing agriculture in Idaho.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 16, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field, Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Field(23), Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Frances Field called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 12, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

It was agreed by all the committee members to have the Committee Secretary create binders for the minutes for this session.

Chairman Field reminded the committee there will **not** be a meeting on February 2, 2006, because of the Mountain Home Base tour. The bus will leave at 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Field gave a brief summary of the three types of rules. The first group (usually behind a yellow divider) are pending rules adopted by agencies during the calendar year 2005 and are submitted for legislative review. The second group (usually behind a green divider) are pending rules adopted during the calendar year 2005 that impose a fee or charge. The last group of rules (usually behind a salmon divider) are temporary rules approved by the Governor that went into effect during the year 2005 without legislative review.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m. so the two subcommittees could meet to review the rules.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE - CROPS

DATE: January 16, 2006

TIME: Upon adjournment of the full committee meeting

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Trail, Representatives Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** NONE

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Subcommittee Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**DOCKET NO.
02.0209.0501** **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained the proposed rule would update and clarify the requirements that applies to Idaho potatoes and also cover potatoes from out of state. This rule also identifies specific exotic pests of concern to the Idaho Potato Industry for which a zero tolerance would be specified. These pests include potato tuberworm, potato wart, and bacterial ring rot.

A question was asked if there was any opposition to this rule. There was none from the Idaho farmers, but there is some from the Washington and Oregon farmers.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0209.0501 be approved.

By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**DOCKET NO.
02.0303.0501** **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained the pesticide Container Recycling Program is a voluntary program that involves the collection of empty pesticide containers throughout the state for recycling. The number of containers collected in this program continues to increase every year and is currently near maximum capacity. The fee increase will allow ISDA to meet the increasing demand for this program. In addition, the USEPA is currently considering a rule revision to make recycling pesticide containers mandatory. This rule change will increase the amount of the annual fee for an annual pesticide registration from \$145.00 to \$160.00 per product per calendar year and will allow the Container Recycling Program to continue to collect empty pesticide containers without a major disruption in service to the industry.

A question was asked what feedback has the department gotten from the manufacturer. There has been only one negative comment.

MOTION: Representative Pence made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0303.0501 be approved.

By voice vote, the motion was passed.

**DOCKET:
02.0601.0501**

Thomas Dayley, Administrator, Plant Industries Division, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this rule is needed to eliminate debt and secure a solid financial footing for the Idaho State Seed Laboratory. Additional service fee revenues in the amount of approximately \$100,000 will be required. This will increase the fees for germination, purity, and tetrazolium testing for basic classes of seed, increase the hourly fee, and increase the fee for the Out-of-State Seed Dealer's License. Without an increase in revenues, the Department may be forced to close or curtail the services of the Idaho State Seed Laboratory. They have already cut back on personnel. This proposed rule went to the Governor in August and was approved. All the debt has not been cleared, but it is on track.

A question was asked if there was another rule last year like this one. Yes, but it was pulled back.

MOTION:

Representative Bolz made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0601.0501 be approved.

By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**DOCKET NO.
02.0602.0502**

Michael Cooper, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this rule will adopt the update of the Official Publication of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) to reflect the 2006 edition. This is usually published in January or February of each year. This is a standard reference manual for feed control officials for the registration of animal feeds.

MOTION:

Representative Bolz made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0602.0502 be approved.

By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**DOCKET NO.
02.0606.0501**

Michael Cooper, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained currently the rules for the planting of kidney and garden beans require a two year history of rill irrigation planting in Idaho prior to a planting under sprinkler irrigation. The proposed changes will amend the rule to read "ALL OTHER BEANS" and eliminate Section 200.09.c due to the constraints of the planting irrigation history requirement of two years under rill irrigation prior to a planting of one year under sprinkler irrigation. Also, a requirement of serology testing after the planting under sprinkler irrigation will be added.

MOTION:

Representative Stevenson made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0606.0501 be approved.

By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**DOCKET NO.
02.0612.0501**

Michael Cooper, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this rule will adopt the update of the Official Publication of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) to reflect the 2006 edition. This is usually published in January or February of each year. This is a standard reference manual for fertilizer control officials for the registration of fertilizers.

- MOTION:** Representative Shirley made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0612.0501 be approved.
- By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- DOCKET NO. 02.0617.0501** **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained to the committee the current rules have requirements that must be completed by March 15 of each year. The proposed amendment will improve the uniformity of the language in the rule relative to cull disposal methods, clarify the intent of the rule and the responsibilities of parties involved in the disposal of cull onions and potatoes in order to ensure better control of the onion maggot and potato pests in the onion and potato growing areas of Idaho.
- MOTION:** Representative Bolz made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0617.0501 be approved.
- By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- DOCKET NO. 02.0626.0501** **Thomas Dayley**, Administrator, Plant Industries Division, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this rule is needed to create a new Seed Potato Crop Management Area in Fremont County, specifically designated as the Hog Hollow Seed Potato Crop Management Area. This Seed Potato Crop Management Area will help ensure disease-free seed and help control Idaho's potato pest problems.
- MOTION:** Representative Shirley made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0626.0501 be approved.
- By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- DOCKET No. 02.0641.0501** **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this rule will adopt the update of the Official Publication of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) to reflect the 2006 edition. This is usually published in January or February of each year. This is a standard reference manual for fertilizer control officials for the registration of fertilizers.
- MOTION:** Representative Pence made a motion to recommend to the full committee that 02.0641.0501 be approved.
- By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- Representative Stevenson informed the committee of his recent visit to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and how helpful the department was with answering questions.
- ADJOURN:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Representative Tom Trail
Chairman - Subcommittee - Crops

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS LIVESTOCK SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: January 16, 2006

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Subcommittee Chairman Lake, Representatives Brackett, Jaquet and Andrus

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture; **Larry Hayhurst**, Director, Idaho State Brand Board

**DOCKET #
02-0420-0501** **John Chatburn** explained to the committee that this rule updates the documents incorporated by reference to reflect the most current editions, clarifies the language describing calfhood vaccination, and updates the protocol for the adult vaccination of imported cattle to better allow for disease prevention.

**DOCKET #
02-0421-0501** **John Chatburn** explained that this rule updates the documents incorporated by reference to reflect the most current editions, clarifies, the importation requirements for cattle that are not vaccinated for brucellosis, and adds additional testing requirements for dairy cattle entering Idaho.

**DOCKET #
02-0424-0501** **John Chatburn** explained the reason for adopting the pending rule and a statement of any change between the text of the proposed rule and the text of the pending rule with an explanation of the reasons for the change. This rule updates the documents incorporated by reference to reflect the most current editions, clarifies the identification requirements for tuberculosis reactors.

**DOCKET #
02-0427-0501** **John Chatburn** explained the proposed rule and the reason for the change. In order to better regulate the deleterious exotic animals in Idaho, the department has proposed this rule which defines hybrids of deleterious exotic animals as deleterious exotic animals, adds provisions for permit revocation, record keeping, annual inventories, reporting, and adds additional species to the list of deleterious exotic animals.

**DOCKET #
11-0201-0501** **Larry Hayhurst** explained that this rule change raises the brand inspection fee from \$.75 to \$.84, and the livestock pasture fee from \$.38 to \$.42. The Idaho Brand Board has not had a fee increase since FY92 (Fiscal Year 1992). Our cost of doing business has increased. For example: Comparing FY92 to FY05, we have had a 214% increase in employee benefits. Estimated increase for FY06 is 244%. Fuel costs for FY04 we up 59% compared to FY99. Our head count is a little lower, however, but still not enough to reduce our work force more than we

already have and maintain adequate service to the livestock industry.

DOCKET #
11-0201-0502

Larry Hayhurst explained that this rule change raises the cattle fee from \$.84 to \$.94, and the pasture cattle fee from \$.42 to \$.47. The Idaho Brand Board fee increase enacted in FY2005 was insufficient to meet Brand Board costs. The FY 2005 projection shows a deficit of \$598,800, with balances reaching just \$700 in FY2006. The Idaho Brand Board, in its September 15, 2005 meeting, approved a \$.10 increase in cattle brand inspection fees and a \$.05 increase in pasture cattle brand inspection fees, effective October 1, 2005. The Governor has found that this increase is justified and necessary to avoid immediate danger.

MOTION:

Representative Jacquet made a motion to approve Docket No.: 02-0420-0501, Docket No. 02-0421.0501, Docket No. 02-0424-0501, and Docket No. 02-0427-0501. By voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously.

MOTION:

Representative Brackett made a motion to accept Docket No.: 11-0201-0501 and Docket No.11-0201-0502. By voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Representative Dennis Lake
Subcommittee Chairman

Carolyn Johnson
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 18, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Brackett, Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:34p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 16, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Field reminded the committee of the meeting focused around *Idaho's International Trade Efforts* to be held at 1:30 p.m., January 19, 2006, at the J.D. Williams basement conference room.

Dean John Hammel from the University of Idaho - College of Agriculture, will present a PowerPoint presentation at our next meeting, January 24, 2006.

RS15408 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained the Idaho State Department of Agriculture discontinued meat inspection activities in the mid 1980's. All regulatory responsibilities for meat inspection in the state of Idaho were turned over to the USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service. This legislation would bring the code up to date.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion to introduce RS15408 to print. All Aye. Motion carried.

RS15410 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation is to make the indemnity provision for Tuberculosis consistent with those for Brucellosis. This would strike out the defined dollar amount paid to the owner of an animal and insert the difference between the appraised value of the animal less any federal indemnity and salvage value.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion to introduce RS15410 to print. All Aye. Motion carried.

RS15433 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State

Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation would make the requirements for the identification of animals that have a positive reaction to an official Brucellosis test consistent with the federal uniform methods and rules.

A question was asked if the uniform methods still include branding in different locations, spray painting, and metal tags. Yes.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion to introduce RS15433 to print. All Aye. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION: **Kelly Olson**, Administrator, Idaho Barley Commission, presented their annual report. The approved fiscal year 2006 budget is \$459,195 which is 5.6% higher than the fiscal year 2005. Revenues from the marketing of barley by Idaho farmers totaled \$163.5 million. Production and processing of barley generated an estimated \$309.2 million of sales. There are 3, 873 jobs in Idaho relating to the barley industry.

There are three malt plants in eastern Idaho. Two are in Idaho Falls and one in Pocatello. The Anheuser Bush's plant expansion was completed in June 2004. GModelo Agriculture, Inc. plant was fully operational in December 2005. The newest barley facility is the TVRR barley fractionation/ethanol plant in Ontario, Oregon. This innovative facility will process at least 4 to 5 million bushels specialty barley annually. TVRR completed the final site and environmental permitting in the fall 2005 and will break ground in early 2006. They expect to be operational in 2007. Oregon offered economic incentives to attract TVRR across the river from Idaho.

Japan is the largest export customer for US barley. The Japanese feed and food barley team visited Magic Valley for the fourth straight year. The Idaho Barley Commission helped organize and fund the first-ever international malt and malting barley buyers conference held in the U.S. The conference attracted 28 buyers from more than 13 foreign countries.

The Idaho Barley Commission launched *Project Cash Flow* in the fall of 2005 to assist growers with the current cost-price squeeze. They recognize that growers will face many hard choices in the upcoming crop season as they face hefty energy costs. The Commission convened a group of university and industry experts to identify *2006 Best Management Practices* to help their producers fine-tune their production practices to maximize fuel and fertilizer efficiency. They identified many interconnected areas where producers can adjust their management practices to better control input costs.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 24, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 18, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Livestock Subcommittee Chairman Lake reported to the full committee that the Livestock Subcommittee sees no opposition in their review of the Livestock Rules.

Representative Lake made a motion to the full committee to accept the Livestock rules as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

Representative Jaquet moved to accept the minutes of the Livestock Subcommittee, January 24, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Crop Subcommittee Chairman Trail reported to the full committee that the Crop Subcommittee sees no opposition in their review of the Crop Rules.

Representative Trail made a motion to the full committee to accept the Crop rules as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

Representative Pence moved to accept the minutes of the Crop Subcommittee, January 24, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

RS 15428 **Laura Johnson**, Legislative Liaison for Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation would add three additional members to the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee of which currently consists of 16 members. This would provide representation of one member representing American Indian tribal interests, one member whose expertise is geology, and one member whose expertise is economics.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS15428 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Michael Cooper, Bureau Chief, Feeds and Plant Services, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation would bring the Association of American Feed Control Officials uniform code up to date. It has not been revised since 1993. The current code will be renumbered and re-organized. Several new definitions will be added. Registration fees will be made non-refundable which would be consistent with the current fertilizer and soil and plant amendment code. Penalties for the distribution of unregistered product and late renewal submission will be adopted. The civil penalty authority will be made consistent with most other laws in the Department.

A question was asked if the late renewal fee was \$11,000. That is the estimated amount the Department could collect during the year at \$10.00 per penalty. This was estimated using previous years data.

MOTION:

Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS15418C3 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION:

Dean John Hammel, University of Idaho - College of Agriculture, presented the University's annual budget. The total 2006 estimated operating resources budget is \$71 million.

The University has 12 research and extension centers across the state. There are eight major campus buildings. The amount of land owned by the college is over 4,000 acres. Agricultural production and research include potatoes, small fruits, cereal grains, sugarbeets, dry beans, hops, onions, corn, apples, and mint to name a few. Animal involvement include beef production, fish nutrition and feeds, and animal and veterinary science/medicine research.

The University offers courses in agricultural and extension education, agricultural economics and rural sociology, family and consumer sciences, animal and veterinary science, plant, soil and entomological science, and food science and toxicology. Outreach programs include outreach programs for Latinos in Spanish, outreach for the elderly, and an extension nutrient program.

Challenges and concerns facing the school include fewer faculty members, retention and recruitment of faculty and staff, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, inflationary impact on general operations, and possible reductions in the federal formula funding.

Dean Hammel gave a brief update on the Caldwell Extension proposal. Because of suburban development around the facility, it will be relocated. The new location will consist of the Caldwell EDC, the small business incubator, facilities, and conference rooms.

A question was asked if the extension is having problems filling the openings out in the field. Yes, there's usually a small pool of applicants plus the pay is low.

A question was asked if extension people are tenured people. Yes, and it requires a master's degree. The idea of having tenure as job security attracts some people.

A question was asked what percent of pay increase will the extension people receive. They will receive 3% as other state employees.

A question was asked if the old Caldwell sight will be sold. There is concern because of the lead base paint and possible asbestos. It is endowment land and belongs to the state and would have to go through the State Land Board for disposition.

A question was asked since the University got immunity from the Open Records Law, has that benefitted the college in getting contracts and money. Yes. It has increased confidence of the industries.

PRESENTATION: **Former Chairman Jones** gave a presentation on the similarities in agriculture between Hawaii and Idaho. He recently accepted the position of Vice-President of Agricultural Services for Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company, a division of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. He oversees the harvesting, tilling, and planting of 17, 000 acres of sugar cane each year. The company's operation encompasses 37,000 acres, all using drip irrigation. The island faces many of the problems that play-out in Idaho, including a battle over water rights with native Hawaiians.

This company has been in operation for 136 years, but many of its operating practices haven't been updated since the 1930s. This is where Mr. Jones comes into the picture. Besides updating its agricultural practices, he also envisions the company looking into ways to capitalize on byproducts such as electricity and ethanol production. The company operates three hydropower plants by burning leftover cane stalks for steam to create electricity. This furnishes the island of Maui with about eight percent of its electricity. Without the company's energy production, Mr. Jones doubts that the company would be profitable.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 26, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Stevenson, Bolz, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Shirley, Lake

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 24, 2006, as printed. All Aye. Motion carried.

RS 15718 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Feeds and Plant Services, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation would expand the duties of the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission to allow it to support research. This would also allow the hobbyist bee keeper to register on a voluntary basis for a fee of \$10.00. The Commission is authorized to publish the names and phone numbers of bee keepers, the counties in which they keep bees, and any other information it feels necessary to help prevent the accidental poisoning of honey bees.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15718 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

RS 15727 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Feeds and Plant Services, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation. The bee industry has changed so much over the years. This legislation would help manage pesticides. It will remove the requirements for mandatory inspections for honeybees, honeybee colonies, and equipment from the law. Hobbyist beekeepers are exempted from regulations and other technical corrections. This will also provide for publication the names and phone numbers of bee keepers and location of bee hives to prevent accidental poisoning of honey bees. Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming are the only states left with bee laws. Moving bees into the state will also impose a \$10.00 fee for the first 50 colonies. Each additional colony shall be assessed at a rate of ten cents per colony.

A question was asked why the hobby bee keepers are exempt. It is hard to register a hobby bee keeper as they are small.

A question was asked if there is any impact on the honey bee with the Africanized honey bee. The Africanized honey bee doesn't go north of Utah. The weather is a factor.

MOTION: Representative Bolz made a motion to introduce RS 15727 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

RS 15426 **Dr. Bob Beede**, Veterinarian, explained this legislation would revise the definition of "emergency veterinary hospital." The revised definition of emergency veterinary facility means any facility with the primary function of receiving, treating, and monitoring emergency patients during its specified hours of operation or that displays to the public any sign, card, or advertisement that indicates it is an emergency veterinary clinic or hospital. An emergency veterinary facility may be an independent after-hours service, an independent 24 hour service, or it may be part of a full-service veterinary medical facility. This would require a veterinary hospital who advertises as an emergency hospital, to have qualified personnel, including a licensed veterinarian, on the hospital premises at all times.

A question was asked if the Veterinary Board reached out to the public for their input. The Board has received phone calls from people trying to find emergency care. This would protect the smaller vets.

A question was asked if there is an emergency in a rural area what happens to the animal. In rural areas they know that the veterinarian is on call and not at the office 24 hours.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion to introduce RS 15426 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION: **Trent Clark**, Director of Public Affairs, Monsanto, gave a Power Point presentation on biotechnology in agriculture. Agriculture is using advance technology. Building on centuries of science, biotechnology is a collection of tools used to improve and enhance plants, animals, and microorganisms for the benefit of society. Science is continuously improving the quantity and quality of food production. Seventy five percent of farmers use computers. It takes ten years of research to develop a biotechnology crop. This enables farmers to raise better plants and grow more without pesticides. There are 165 countries that approve biotechnology crops. To feed the eight billion people expected by 2025, the world will have to double food production.

Biotechnology continues to advance with applications in agriculture productivity, good and nutrition, pharmaceuticals, industrial processes, bioremediation, bio-fuels, and personal care. Every gene in a plant can be sequenced and nearly every crop in the world can be transformed. Commitment to safety is the top priority through the research and development process.

A question was asked what crop is used most with biotechnology. Corn fields are 95%, 50% of cotton and 65% soy beans.

A question was asked where does the sugar beet stand now. It's a joint venture and they are waiting for their partner. Royalties are involved.

A question was asked to explain the process to genetically alter a plant. The process is done in Chesterfield and is very detailed.

RS 15409

John Chatburn, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this legislation. This will change the CAFO definition from the old EPA standard of “animal units” to the current EPA standard of “actual animal numbers.” The Idaho Association of Counties endorses this draft of the bill.

MOTION:

Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15409 to print. All Aye. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: January 30, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with a quorum being present. The first order of business was to review the minutes of January 26, 2006.

MINUTES: Representative Shirley moved to accept the minutes of January 26, 2006 as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15758 **Representative Darrell Bolz** introduced RS 15758, stating that this legislation revises the provisions relating to the disbursement of funds from accounts of the Idaho Canola and Rapeseed Commission. He explained that he will be introducing three other similar pieces of legislation this session.

The language on Line 15 is being revised to allow an officer designated by the commission to withdrawn or pay out funds rather than requiring that checks must be signed by two (2) officers. Legislative Services Auditor, Mr. Ray Ineck, was consulted about this amendment, and he said he sees no reason for the two signatures. These accounts are audited every two years with the state reserving the right to audit the funds at any time. The audits address each year separately. In some instances, members of the commission are some distance apart and it is difficult to obtain two signatures.

In response to a question about whether the checks would be signed by the Executive Officer or a Board member, Representative Bolz said it can be either or.

Another question was asked about the amount of money involved and whether payments are ongoing or must be authorized individually. Representative Bolz explained that the amounts we are talking about for the Canola and Rapeseed Commission are \$76,889 for FY2004 and \$53,246 for FY2005. The amount varies from commission to commission. Generally, all payments are authorized during the commission meetings.

MOTION: Representative Shirley made a motion to introduce RS 15758 for printing. Representative Trail seconded the motion. Representative

Jaquet said she would vote to have the RS printed, but she has concerns about doing away with the checks and balances. Representative Stevenson mentioned that several commissions have been authorized to meet via teleconferencing and this change may be needed.

A vote was called for on the motion to introduce RS 15758 for printing. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15757

Representative Darrell Bolz stated the purpose of this legislation is to revise provisions relating to the disbursement of moneys from the accounts of the Idaho Mint Commission. On line 16, it clarifies that “no moneys shall be withdrawn from or paid out of such accounts except upon order of the commission”. Idaho Mint Commission’s budget for FY2004 was \$157,241 and for FY2005 was \$122,197.

MOTION:

Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15757 for printing. Representative Trail seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15644

Representative Darrell Bolz explained that RS 15644 would amend Section 22-103, Idaho Code, to require the Director of the State Department of Agriculture to cooperate with producers, industry and others to encourage growth of technology within the state’s agricultural industries. It also allows for protection of existing agricultural and marketing channels. This legislation is the result of a recommendation from the Biotechnology Task Force.

The question was asked if this change needs to be put into code or if it could just be implemented. Representative Bolz said because there is a potential for a whole host of bills, they were looking at an avenue where the Department would have control of the rule making.

Another question was asked about who would write the rules if the Department didn’t. Representative Bolz explained that the Department’s concern was that no rules would be written.

MOTION:

Representative Andrus made a motion to introduce RS 15644 for printing. Representative Trail seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15728

Representative John A. Stevenson presented RS 15728. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Board of Examiners to issue deficiency warrants against the general fund for up to five million dollars, an increase from the currently allowed five hundred thousand dollars, an amount insufficient to cover a major pest threat. The Board of Examiners may authorize the issuance of warrants only after the Director of Agriculture has determined that there exists the threat of an infestation of a pest or disease to Idaho’s agricultural resources.

To date, there have been no expenditures that have exceeded the \$500,000 threshold, but if high value crops are infected the loss would exceed the threshold. The Federal Office and Management and Budget has been reluctant to release emergency funds to USDA for control

activities where there has not been matching funds provided by the state.

MOTION: Representative Trail moved to introduce RS 15728 for printing. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15583 **Mr. Stan Boyd**, representing the Idaho Cattle Association, explained that RS 15583, is being proposed by the Department of Brands. The Idaho Cattle Association voted in favor of the fee structure increases. This legislation proposed to raise the renewal fee for a brand recording from fifty (\$50) dollars to seventy five (\$75) dollars. A brand renewal is good for five years. This legislation would also raise the maximum fee which can be charged by the state brand inspector for a brand inspection from one dollar (\$1) to one dollar and twenty-five (\$1.25). Lastly, this legislation would also raise the minimum fee charged by the state brand inspector for a brand inspection certificate from ten (\$10) dollars to twenty (\$20).

MOTION: Representative Jaquet moved to introduce RS 15583 for printing. Representative Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15719 **Representative Tom Trail** presented RS 15719, explaining that this legislation is to amend Section 25-3507, Idaho Code, to make dog fighting a felony. The legislation also defines dog fighting, and provides for punishment. Representative Trail said he met with a task force last summer that considered updates to the animal cruelty provisions. This task force was made up of representatives from numerous organizations, including the Idaho Farm Bureau, the Humane Society, and others.

A letter from Mary Remer, Animal Shelter Manager from Pocatello, was referenced where she asked to have her strong support of this legislation and recommended bringing in law enforcement to testify. Ms. Remer mentioned that one of the tragedy's of dog fighting is that domestic pets are kidnapped and used for fighting.

Making it a felony conviction for those participating in dog fighting will send a strong message out and gives the judge the discretion to impose heavy fines.

A concern was voiced about making this a felony rather than establishing civil penalties. The question was asked about the maximum fines under civil penalties. Idaho and Wyoming are the only two states who do not make dog fighting a felony. The fines under civil penalties are negligible versus those imposed by a felony.

Another concern was voiced about the language on Line 16, "participates in". Does this mean a bystander, witness, spectator or family member could be charged with a felony? Representative Trail said those who are individually associated with the dog fight or those caught gambling would face felony charges and the judge would consider the evidence. Representative Trail said if the RS is printed,

law enforcement officials would be available to testify at the hearing.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet moved to introduce RS 15719 for printing. Representative Pence seconded the motion. All Aye. The motion carried.

SUMMIT UPDATE: Representative Trail briefed the committee on a recent Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit that he and Representative Field attended in Phoenix, Arizona. This summit was attended by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs from 46 of the 50 states and four attendees were from Canada.

On the last day of the summit, the Washington Office presented the 2007 farm bill. This is an extremely complex piece of legislation that addresses the budget deficit and world trade. The farm community will definitely have to stand up and be involved in order not to be hurt by this legislation.

At the summit, several expert agricultural economists from Purdue University presented a paper on alternative fuels, Ethanol and bio-diesel. It is predicted that in 15-20 years farmers will be producing much of our needed fuel. Ethanol is very profitable and plants are being paid for within two years even without the large public subsidies. California has approved the use of vehicles running on 100% Ethanol. Five farmers in Latah County have opened a plant and are making bio-diesel out of Canola oil. Alternative fuels and bio-diesel look very promising, and Idaho needs to take a forward look at this.

Clive Strong, Division Chief, Natural Resources Division of the Attorney General's Office, did an excellent job of leading one of the sessions. Idaho is well ahead of the other states on adjudication issues.

Chairman Field mentioned she attended a round table with chairmen from the east coast where they promote family dairy farms that are subsidized. Conservation easements are a real worry. She mentioned that Boise valley has lost 110,000 acres of farm land since 1993.

ADJOURN: Chairman Field reminded the committee that they would not be meeting on Thursday, February 2 due to the legislative trip to the Mountain Home Air Base. There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Representative Frances Field
Chairman

Karen Daniels
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 6, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of January 30, 2006, as printed. Representative Trail seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Chairman Field (23) explained to the committee she has written a letter to Director John Marburger, Office of Science and Technology Policy and Dr. Michel Griffin, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, supporting that a high resolution thermal imager be aboard all future Landsat Data Continuity Missions. Also that two or more Landsat satellites be constructed and launched, each with a thermal imager, to reduce the image return time and as a contingency for future malfunctions. Chairman Field (23) asked those who support this to sign the letter and return it to her. Anyone wanting more information may contact Representative Bolz as he is very informed about this project.

RS 15831 **Representative Bolz** explained this proposed House Joint Memorial that entails all foreign countries doing business with the United States be held to the same standards for which American farmers must comply. It also encourages that the general public be educated about the important role that agriculture plays in our society.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion to introduce RS 15831 to print. Representative Pence seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

RS 15486 **Representative Trail** explained this proposed legislation would require the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to notify law enforcement and other authorities before field burning is conducted. Latah County has had instances where field burning was taken place but because of the location, citizens were concerned that it was an actual fire, and the law enforcement was called. Having this in affect, both authorities and the Department of Agriculture would know when and where field burning would be taking place.

Senator Shawn Keogh and Representative Shirley Ringo spoke in favor of this proposed legislation.

A question was asked how would the Department of Agriculture notify the authorities before a field burn. The Department of Agriculture has modern technology that they could use.

A question was asked about the other burnings that goes on besides field burning. There were 140 reports of burns last year.

MOTION:

Representative Jaquet made a motion to introduce RS 15486 to print. Representative Pence seconded the motion. By voice vote the motion carried. Representative Lake wished to be shown as a no vote.

PRESENTATION:

Michael Becerra, Manager, Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory, gave the laboratory's annual financial report. They are now a part of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The University of Idaho will continue to provide technical audits. They have analyzed soil samples for phosphorus to support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture nutrient management plan program and have been involved in several criminal forensic cases.

The laboratory was on budget for FY05 and ended the year adding to their cash reserve. The Legislative Services Office did an audit and found no incorrect accounting procedures. As of the end of FY06, all laboratory assets will be fully depreciated from the combined purchase price of \$549,607. In terms of net assets, the laboratory has been operating at a significant loss and still has no means to plan for replacement of equipment. Prior to the recent round of raises, three of their personnel were paid the minimum of their pay scale, 24.5% below "policy."

A question was asked if the laboratory does work for out of state or out of country agencies. They have not done any out of the country but would not turn a request down.

A question was asked if the laboratory gets money from DEQ and the Idaho State Police. There is currently a MOU in process.

PRESENTATION:

Bob Narerebout, Independent Dairy Environmental Action League, presented an update on IDA and IDEAL. Recently Idaho passed Pennsylvania to become the fourth largest milk producing state. In 2005, Idaho had 728 dairies with 440,929 cows, which averages 606 cows per dairy. The dairy industry is now Idaho's leading agricultural sector. Its total sales of raw milk is three times that of potatoes.

IDA and IDEAL's expenditures for 2005 was \$400,000 for legal and \$310,000 for research. There were four legal cases including one for failure to file CERCLA-EPCRA emissions reports. There were also four research proposals including footbaths replacing cooper sulfate and a sustainable dairy manure management system which would include a gasification plant. The proposed 2006 budget includes \$15,000 for research coordination, \$246,831 for research projects and \$150,000 for the Dairy Research Center planning and implementation. This will be

located in the Magic Valley where the majority of Idaho's dairies are located.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Ron Sheffield**, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Twin Falls Research and Extension Center, gave an update on the Manure Management Projects that are in progress around the area. These projects focus on air quality, phosphorus management, and value added processing. These include UV sentry monitoring system, anaerobic digester, dairy wastewater phosphorus removal system, and fly larvae utilization of manure, (used for protein supplement for trout production). They receive strong financial support from IDEAL and the Idaho State Department of Agricultural. A collaboration with other universities, EPA, and other state agencies support the research. Important upcoming dates are: March 7, 2006, in Twin Falls - Nutrient Management Conference and March 21-22, 2006, in Las Vegas - Western Dairy Air Quality Symposium.

PRESENTATION: **Kyle Hawley**, President - Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, explained how the conservation districts are compiled. These districts consist of elected officials and volunteers. They are accountable to local constituents and state agencies. The districts strive to solve local, state, and national issues ahead of regulation and litigation. The USDA Farm Bill mandated conservation programs. Funding comes from both local and state. Currently there are 34 active implementation projects in the state. The average cost of a share project is \$16,800.

John Hermann, Chairman - Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District, explained the Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District is located in North Central Idaho and encompasses the Nez Perce County boundaries. The District provides landowners and land users with technical assistance for environmental concerns including, but not limited to, land and water use, conservation, and rural development. Currently there are active projects in all counties within the district. Over three-quarters of the district is privately owned with the remainder being federal, state, county, municipal, and Nez Perce Tribal land. The District applied for \$3.3 million in grant funding for the period 2006-2009 from a combination of requests to the Bonneville Power administration and the Idaho Office of Species Concern.

Rick Rodgers, Chairman - Balanced Rock Soil and Water Conservation District, explained the gravity flow system that was constructed in his District. The mainline is 2.25 miles long. It begins with 28" diameter pipe and ends with a 12" diameter pipe. There are ten pivots in the system. The first pivot has 28 pounds of pressure and the last pivot has 65 pounds of pressure. Additional pivots on the system required regulators to control the excess pressure. The cost was between \$500,000 - \$600,000. This has a water savings of 30%. It also has a huge fuel savings. It is estimated that it will take 2-3 years for the pay back. The funding source was the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Steve Miller, Director - Division IV, Idaho Association of Soil

Conservation Districts, explained that funding sources come from many places: local government, corporate, state, federal, grants, loans, and the tribes. Sometimes multi funding is accomplished. Each District gets \$5,000. Their request support for full 2:1 match for 2006 is \$236,626 and full 2:1 match for 2007 is \$232,000. Funding is always a challenge. Dick Rush has recently been appointed to the Soil Conservation Committee.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion to have a letter written to JFAC showing support of this committee for the Soil Conservation budget for the amount of \$232,000 for 2007. Representative Brackett seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 8, 2006

TIME: 1:32 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 8, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15750C1: **Matthew Voile**, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this proposed legislation will update the current Noxious Weed Law. This will include new plant species that have been found in Idaho and surrounding states. Proposed changes will provide clarification to the existing law by adding and defining new terms, removing obsolete language. This will also bring the penalties parallel with seven other laws.

A question was asked what "nonfederally administered land" is. It is conservation easement leased land. The landowner would have control of it.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion to introduce RS 15750C1 to print. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15864 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained this proposed legislation would clarify which animals are domestic fur bearing animals, where they can be held, and for what purposes. Zoos, public parks, museums and educational institutions must possess a permit from the Department of Agriculture. They may import or exchange fox, skunk and raccoons. Animals that were deleted from the fur-bearing list are karakul and nutria. The bobcat was added as there are bobcat farms in Idaho. Fur-bearing animals are raised for the purpose of harvesting pelts or providing replacement animals to fur farms that harvest pelts as their primary activity. Fur farms are a legitimate business.

A question was asked if this proposed legislation was a result from the

meetings held last summer. This proposed legislation is a result of Idaho Fish and Game, The Idaho State Department Agriculture and the fur farms.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion to introduce RS 15864 to print. Representative Trail seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15907 **Stan Boyd**, Idaho Horse Council, explained the purpose of this proposed legislation is to bring Idaho Code up-to-date regarding the current assessment that is paid to the Idaho Horse Board by horse owners who receive a brand inspection. This will be done by issuing an "Idaho Horse Board Paid Assessment Card" that may be purchased annually by the horse owner. This will eliminate the \$3.00 per horse inspection fee.

A question was asked if a horse does not have a brand and is sold, what happens. How will the money be collected? There is no promotion fee as part of the inspection fee.

The question was ask how many breed associations are in Idaho. There are about six that work with the Board.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion to introduce RS 15907 to print. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15898 **Representative Andrus** explained this proposed legislation would entitle the farmer or rancher their expense in defense of nuisance suits according to the Right To Farm Statute. There have been lawsuits against agriculture for noise, dust, odors, and other associated activities. This legislation will help prevent further loss of Idaho farm ground.

A question was asked if the number is available of the increase of lawsuits because of encroachment of urbanization. No, they do not have that at this time.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion to introduce RS 15898 to print. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15972 Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers, explained this proposed legislation would allow Conservation Reserve Program land to be burned, under certain circumstances, even if it has not been harvested. This would redefine the term "crop residue."

A question was asked how many acres would this affect in the state. Don't know how many acres of Conservation Reserve Program land is in the state.

A question was asked if the amount of Conservation Reserve Program land is larger in southern Idaho than in northern Idaho. Yes, the majority is in the southern part of the state.

A question was asked if education would be available for burning in

southern Idaho. Yes, there would be training for burning of crops.

A question was asked if farmers burn without permission, wouldn't they burn CRP land without permission. Yes, there needs to be conformity.

MOTION:

Representative Shirley made a motion to introduce RS 15972 to print. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

RS 15755C1

Representative Bolz explained the proposed legislation would eliminate the need for two signatures on checking accounts for the Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission. Because these accounts are audited by legislative auditors, one signature would be sufficient. It is sometimes difficult to obtain two signatures.

A question was asked if all commodity commissions will be doing this. No, there will be only four.

A question was asked if there is concern of embezzlement. No, they will be audited once every two years by Legislative Services.

A question was asked if there had been any communication with the Idaho State Attorney General's office. No, but they have spoken with Ray Ineck.

Representative Brackett expressed concern over eliminating the one signature on checks. Perhaps they should inquire with other states to see if similar practices have been successful or have failed.

It was suggested by Chairman Field (23) to have Representative Lake, Representative Bolz, and Representative Brackett further investigate the four RS's dealing with commodity commissions eliminating a signature on checks. They will report back to the committee when all four RS's are bills.

MOTION:

Representative Stevenson made a motion to introduce RS 15755C1 to print. Representative Brackett seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. Representative Lake wished to be shown as a No vote.

RS 15877

Representative Bolz explained this proposed legislation is the same as the previous RS but applies to the Idaho Bean Commission.

MOTION:

Representative Shirley made a motion to introduce RS 15877 to print but to be reviewed with the other three RS's regarding one signature on checks. Representative Trail seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. Representative Lake wished to be shown as a No vote.

RS 15916

Representative Trail explained this proposed legislation would require posting of pesticide safety information for agricultural workers and posting pesticide application notices. This will be done in both English and Spanish.

Representative Jaquet spoke in favor of the proposed legislation.

A question was asked where this model legislation came from. It came from the ICAN Organization.

A question was asked what pesticides already require posting. What pesticides would this cover that aren't covered now? Category 1 and Category 2 type chemicals would be covered. Category 2 is added.

This may cause confusion because the labels on Category 2 do not specify posting.

A question was asked since it is being done now, what section of code is used. The Department of Agriculture follows the EPA Worker Protection Standards.

A question was asked if there is already a 30 day notice for posting. Yes, but nothing for 30 days *after* application. Most are for 7-10 days.

MOTION:

Representative Lake made a motion to introduce RS15916 to print. Representative Pence seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. Chairman Field (23) reminded the committee there would not be a meeting Friday, February 10, 2006.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 14, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 8, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Field (23) informed the Committee a letter has been written to JFAC showing support of this Committee for the Soil Conservation Districts' budget to be enhanced for the amount of \$232,000 for 2007. She then passed the letter around to the Committee for those who wish to sign it. The Secretary will deliver it to the Co-chairs of JFAC.

H 491 **Dr. Kliff Bramwell**, President of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, explained the proposed legislation. This would clarify the existing statutory definitions pertaining to emergency veterinary medical services and facilities. The proposed bill will also establish requirements for providing emergency veterinary medical services and on-call emergency services that include advertising, hours of operation, and availability of staffing by qualified personnel. There are only three 24 hours emergency veterinary hospitals in the state of Idaho. Some facilities advertise that they offer "emergency care" but are not staffed 24 hours.

A question was asked what reaction has the Board of Veterinary Medicine gotten from emergency personnel. They were notified last week and the Board hasn't received any responses. They did receive a favorable response from one of the emergency hospitals.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion that House Bill 491 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Shirley will carry the bill on the floor.

H 411 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 411. This proposed legislation would make the indemnity provision for Tuberculosis consistent with those for Brucellosis. It strikes out the \$25.00 amount and changes it to the appraised value of the animal less any federal

indemnity and salvage value.

A question was asked where the money comes from. It comes from the Livestock Disease Control and T.B. Indemnity Fund, (which includes brand inspections), Deficiency Warrants for Disease Control, and the General Fund Appropriations.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion that House Bill 411 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Brackett will carry the bill on the floor.

H 466 **Tony Bennett**, Technical Operations Manager, Idaho Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 466. This proposed legislation adds three additional members to the carbon sequestration advisory committee and provides for their specific representation. They would like the three members to be: one member representing American Indian tribal interests, one member whose expertise is geology, and one member whose expertise is economics.

A question was asked regarding the SOP fiscal note stating \$20,000 for additional funds. This is internal funding exchange and really doesn't require additional funding.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion that House Bill 466 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation but striking out the last sentence of the SOP. *"However, as an additional part of the FY07 budget request, the Commission has submitted a decision unit for a line item increase of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,00) for use in accordance with the provisions of I.C. 22-5206."* Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Jaquet will carry the bill on the floor.

H 465 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agricultural, explained House Bill 465 would update the current code. It has not undergone a major revision since 1993. It will be brought up to date to the Association of American Feed Control Officials uniform code. The current code will be renumbered and re-organized. Several new definitions will be added. It will also include a new penalty clause. The Department had 66 late collections in one year. This will help collect the monies in a timely manner. The penalty increase (from \$500 to \$10,000) will achieve consistency with a number of other laws within the Department and will be implemented through the development of a penalty matrix in rule. There will be a decline in the number of fines as time goes by.

A question was asked who in the industry will be affected by these changes. Any feed company who is in business now and in compliance will remain unaffected. The Food Producers support it. The Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association had no comment.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion that House Bill 466 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Lake

will carry the bill on the floor.

H 514

Representative Stevenson explained House Bill 514. This bill would authorize the Board of Examiners to issue deficiency warrants against the General Fund for up to \$5 million; an increase from the currently allowed \$500,000. This will bring the value of a crop up to the present day's value. The Board may authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants only after the Director of Agriculture has determined that there exists the threat of an infestation of a pest or disease to Idaho's agricultural resources.

Keith Esplin, Executive Director, Potato Growers of Idaho, supports the proposed bill.

MOTION:

Representative Andrus made a motion that House Bill 514 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Stevenson will carry the bill on the floor.

PRESENTATION:

Frank Muir, President/CEO, Idaho Potato Commission, explained the Idaho Potato Commission is an agency of the State of Idaho charged with conserving and promoting the potato industry of the State. The basic operations of the Commission are financed principally by a potato tax assessed on growers, shippers, and processors of Idaho potatoes. The Commission uses only a general fund to account for their assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Muir explained by category the *statement of revenues and expenditures budget and actual* sheet located in each Representatives' packet.

The Commission has recently moved to their new office in Eagle. They have replaced their outdated computers, telephone systems, and furniture at the cost of \$89,000.

A new potato bag will soon be seen in the grocery stores. It will show a large blue label on the front identifying it as Idaho Potatoes. The average shopper spends less than 3 seconds looking at potatoes in the store. They assume all potatoes are Idaho potatoes that are located in our Idaho grocery stores.

There were 328,000 acres of potatoes planned. 323,000 acres came in. The yield was estimated to be 115 million but the actual was 117 million. The revenue doubled this year from last.

A question was asked if there is a risk of running out of potatoes before the next crop is harvested. Some customers do run out and shift over to Washington or Colorado potatoes but then come back to Idaho potatoes. The Commission rewards loyal customers that want Idaho potatoes only. Running out of potatoes is always a good rumor to help sales.

They are going to meet with Cosco stores in Washington to sell Idaho

potatoes in their stores. Cosco sells quality produce and Idaho potatoes would be a perfect match.

There is a bill in the Transportation Committee requesting to drop the *Famous Potatoes* logo on the Idaho license plate. Idaho must keep this on the license plates to promote an identity of the state.

A question was asked about the year after year court cases. One case went back to the Supreme Court. The Commission is trying to negotiate a settlement to end it. Judge Bryant said the Potato Commission has been more than reasonable.

A question was asked how many sacks of potatoes are moved from market for cattle feed. 5 million. Some go to feed and some are dehydrated for food aid donations. The dehydration process takes out vitamins and minerals.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 16, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 14, 2006, as printed. Representative Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

H 490 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agricultural, explained House Bill 490. This proposed bill was requested by the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission to expand their research. Oregon State University is developing an agriculture research program and this will allow them to participate. It will also provide an exemption from annual taxation for hobbyist beekeepers and to provide for voluntary registration and a fee payment. It will also allow a list of beekeepers registered with the commission be available to any pesticide applicator registered with the Department of Agriculture, mosquito abatement or pest control district, or the University of Idaho county agricultural extension office.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion that House Bill 490 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Lake will be the floor sponsor.

H 493 **Michael Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agricultural, explained House Bill 493. This legislation will remove the requirements for mandatory inspections for honeybee, honeybee colonies and equipment from the law. This bill will help manage pesticide poisoning by knowing where hives are located. It also states the penalty of any owner or bee keeper possessing diseased bees. Transporting bees into the state will impose a \$10.00 fee for the first 50 colonies. Each additional colony shall be assessed at a rate of ten cents per colony.

MOTION: Representative Bolz made a motion that House Bill 493 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Lake seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Pence will be the floor sponsor.

Representative Trail explained House Bill 516. This proposed legislation would make dog fighting a felony, to define dog fighting, and to provide punishment. There will be no impact of the General Fund. This bill was written after several meetings with different agencies and the public was conducted. Idaho and Wyoming are the only two states that have dog fighting as a misdemeanor. Because of that, Idaho is a magnet state for this activity to take place. Other illegal activity follows dog fighting i.e. gambling and drugs.

Co-Sponsor Representative Pence said they were very careful in the crafting of the words in the bill. "Exhibition" is the key word. Demonstrations of hunting, working, herding, tracking, or self and property protection would not be covered under this bill.

Debra Blackword, Shelter Director, Magic Valley Humane Society, spoke in favor of the bill.

A question was asked if she has seen any dog fights in her area. No, but there is hear say and her shelter has received animals in bad shape probably from dog fighting.

Inga Gibson, PNW Coordinator, Humane Society of the United States, spoke in favor of the bill. She showed a short film of a organized dog fight.

A question was asked it is rumored that family pets are stolen and used for training for these dog fights. Yes, they have found dogs in that condition.

A question was asked where are some of the investigations taking place. There are reports up north and also in the Pocatello area. They are also investigating dogfighting cases that are a few hours south of Boise.

A question was asked who the officer in Minidoka County was. Steven Manny of the Mindioka Animal Control.

A question was asked if this bill would cover dogfights on the reservations across the state. Yes, as the local sheriffs work with the tribal law enforcement.

John Holsman spoke in favor of the bill. This is not a sporting event but torture and death. Other bad things follow dogfights.

A question was asked if Mr. Holsman had ever seen a dogfight. Yes, in California.

Maria Corbett, WRAS, spoke in favor of the bill. She has attended a dogfight and saw people from the Klu Klux Klan in attendance.

Mary Remmer, Manager, Pocatello Animal Shelter, spoke in favor of the bill. She has heard of dog fights in the area and has seen the evidence of the mamed dogs.

A question was asked what kind of offense should be given to offenders of the bill. A misdemeanor is just a slap on the hands. They need to be put in jail.

A question was asked what is the punishment for the first offense for animal cruelty. She thought a \$100.00 fine.

According to the Code Book, it is up to six months in jail and \$5,000 fine.

John Barringer, spoke in favor of the bill. Dogfighting is pre-meditated murder to a dog.

Marilyn Schmitz, spoke in favor of the bill.

Wyoma Clouss, Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, spoke in favor of the bill. The AKC opposes dog fighting and all aggressive behavior.

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, spoke against the bill. The Idaho Farm Bureau did not support the bill at the last meeting. Having it as a misdemeanor is sufficient. He looked on the internet for information about dogfighting and found out that states that have it as a felony, still have dogfights conducted.

Mike Kane, Idaho Sheriffs Association, spoke in favor of the bill. The Idaho Sheriffs Association helped draft the bill.

A question was asked how many dogfight rings are there. Only one he knew of and it was in Bingham County.

Heather Reilly, Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association, spoke in favor of the bill. Having it as a felony would increase the statute of limitations time from one year to five years.

A question was asked if the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association had been polled. Yes and they support it.

A question was asked what the definition of exhibition is. It is the common definition found in Webster's dictionary which would probably say, "something to watch."

A question was asked what other illegal activities follow dogfighting. Illegal drugs and gambling, but it is done secretly.

Susan Clark, Idaho Humane Society, spoke in favor of the bill. The Idaho Humane Society supports the bill. Having it as a misdemeanor doesn't discourage the activity. It's only a nuisance and not a deterrent. Idaho needs to be brought in line with the rest of the nation.

Carol Bachelder spoke in favor of the bill. This offers protection to our state.

Andrea Arledge spoke in favor of the bill. People make a lot of money on this.

Stan Boyd, Idaho Wool Growers Association and Idaho Cattle Association spoke against the bill. He has no problem with the concept of the bill, but fears it is setting up a possibility of a law suit for sheep and cattle dogs working.

A question was asked will the wording in the bill give the growers protection. There is concern over protection dogs and property to protect.

A question was asked if Mr. Boyd had a problem with the definition of "exhibition." Any fight watched by people is an exhibition the way it is written now. There needs to be a better definition.

Pam Ruda, spoke in favor of the bill.

Representative Andrus referred to line 16 that states "or performs any service in the furtherance of an exhibition of dogfighting," would raising pitbulls that will fight be a felony? It would be left to the flexibility of the law enforcement and the judiciary system.

Representative Lake said there is no definition of exhibition in the bill. There needs to have a definition put in it as gambling blood sport etc.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion to hold the bill in committee.

Representative Andrus said this is an emotional issue and doesn't see evidence of dog fights. Nobody has seen one in Idaho that has testified. Bannock and Bingham County Sheriffs haven't seen any for years and years. The other hasn't see any. Six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine is not a slap on the hand.

MOTION: Representative Shirley made a substitute motion to hold the bill for time certain for Wednesday February 22, 2006. Representative Jaquet seconded the motion. Representative Shirley said this would give the sponsor time to look at the concerns and problems that surfaced from this meeting. They could explore an alternative to this bill. Representative Jaquet said they could tighten "intent" and define "exhibition." By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Andrus wished to be shown as voting No.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 20, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Field (23) introduced the Committee's new page, Carl Dayton from Shoshone.

MINUTES: **Representative Bolz** moved to accept the minutes of February 16, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

HJM 12 **Representative Bolz** explained House Joint Memorial is to protect our agriculture. This entails all foreign countries doing business with the United States, be held to the same standards for which American farmers must comply. This will enable American farmers, ranchers, and food processors to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign markets on a strictly level playing field.

MOTION: **Representative Shirley** made a motion that House Joint Memorial 12 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Bolz will be the floor sponsor.

H 513 **Representative Bolz** explained House Bill 513. This proposed legislation would allow the Director of the State Department of Agriculture to cooperate with producers, industry and technology groups, and other agencies to encourage the growth of technology within the state's agricultural industries while protecting, as necessary, the integrity of existing agriculture and agricultural marketing channels. This came about after meetings of the State Agriculture Bio-Tech Committee and the Interim Bio-Tech Task Force. This will help the department to plan ahead.

MOTION: **Representative Pence** made a motion that House Bill 513 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Bolz will be the floor sponsor.

H 410 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 410. This proposed legislation would eliminate reference to meat inspections by the Idaho

State Department of Agriculture. This practice was discontinued in the mid 1980s. It has been confused with the United States Department of Agriculture inspection program.

MOTION: **Representative Andrus** made a motion that House Bill 410 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Andrus will be the floor sponsor.

H 412 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 412. This proposed legislation would make the identification of animals that test positive for Brucellosis consistent with the federal uniform methods and rules.

A question was asked besides branding, what other methods may be used for identification according to the FDA. Spray painting and an ear tag may be used.

MOTION: **Representative Brackett** made a motion that House Bill 412 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Lake seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Brackett will be the floor sponsor.

H 492 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 492. This proposed legislation would change the CAFO definition from the old EPA standard of "animal units" to the current EPA standard of "actual animal numbers."

A question was asked if this would cover ducks. No. There are no duck CAFOs in Idaho.

A question was asked if this would cover turkeys. No. There are no turkey farms large enough to qualify in Idaho.

MOTION: **Representative Jaquet** made a motion to send House Bill 492 to general orders with this change, *82,000 chickens if used a liquid manure handling system*.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Representative Lake** made a substitute motion to send House Bill 492 to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Jaquet, Representative Pence, and Representative Trail wished to be recorded as voting, No. Representative Andrus will be the floor sponsor.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 22, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. Chairman Field moved H 594 to the top of the agenda.

H 594 **Matt Voile**, Bureau Chief, Noxious Weeds Management, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, explained House Bill 594. This proposed legislation will update the current Noxious Weed Law. It will address new plant species that have been found in Idaho and surrounding states. This will include aquatic varieties such as Eurasian Watermilfoil. There is a growing concern about aggressive aquatic weeds in Idaho. It will make available "more tools in the toolbox" for county and state weed control entities to effectively enforce the law by providing and revising penalty provisions for violators.

A question was asked about the federally owned forest land, if they can enforce anything with them. No. The ISDA can not enforce federally owned land but Idaho is a cooperative state where there are no jurisdiction boundaries.

Representative Anderson presented a very brief summary regarding Eurasian Watermilfoil found in Lake Pend Oreille in northern Idaho.

Roger Batt, Legislative Advisor, spoke in favor of House Bill 594.

Jim Martell, Canyon County Weed Superiendent, spoke in favor of House Bill 594.

Paul Miurbrook, President, Idaho Weed Control Association, spoke in favor of House Bill 594.

Brian Wilbur, Ada County Weed Control, spoke in favor of House Bill 594.

Tom Kerr, Valley County Commissioner, spoke in favor of House Bill 594.

Dan Larkin, Legislative Advisor, Food Producers of Idaho, supports

House Bill 594.

MOTION:

Representative Bolz made a motion that House Bill 594 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Bolz will be the floor sponsor.

H 599

Stan Boyd, Legislative Advisor, Boyd Livestock Services, Inc., explained House Bill 599. The proposed legislation will establish an "Idaho Horse Board Paid Assessment Card" that may be purchased by a horse owner for a flat fee of \$100.00. If a person buys more than 33 horses in the same year, it would be to their advantage to purchase a card. It also revises provisions and procedure regarding holding a referendum to increase the check-off that funds the Idaho Horse Board from \$1.00 per head to \$3.00 per head. The Department of Agriculture will be in charge of the referendum.

A question was asked where do the funds go. The funds go towards grants throughout the state. The Idaho Horse Board has granted over \$250,784 over the time frame from 1989-2005.

Larry Hayhurst, State Brand Inspector, spoke favorably of the Idaho Horse Board and the programs they sponsor.

Forrest Hymas, Executive Director, Idaho Horse Board, spoke in favor of the bill. One dollar of the brand goes back to that county where it is paid.

Edith Stanger, Chairman, Idaho Horse Board, Idaho Falls, spoke in favor of House Bill 599. The money will be used for grants that involve education, promotions, and research. The Idaho Horse Board is one of the oldest boards in the nation.

A question was asked what the number of horse 4-H members are in Idaho. Approximately 4,000.

MOTION:

Representative Lake made a motion that House Bill 599 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Stevenson will be the floor sponsor.

H 593

Dar Olberding, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Grain Commission, introduced Wayne Hurst to introduce Bill 593.

Wayne Hurst, President, Idaho Grain Producers, explained House Bill 593. This legislation clarifies that Conservation Reserve Program land is included in the Crop Residue Program. The current language in the Crop Residue Disposal law only permits the burning of vegetative material remaining after harvest. This proposed bill will allow Conservation Reserve Program land to be burned even if it has not been harvested.

A question was asked if this will make more burning in Idaho. Yes, but it

will be monitored.

A question was asked if CRP land is already being burned. Yes. This will bring them into compliance.

A question was asked how many acres of CRP are in Idaho. What percent will be burned? There is roughly 800,000 acres and nobody knows how many acres will be burned. Of the 4 million acres put into crops, 89,000 acres were burned statewide.

A question was asked if there will be education available for farmers in the southern part of the state. Yes, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture has asked for more money to increase the education programs.

A question was asked how many acres are burned in northern Idaho now. There were 100,000 acres in 2005.

A question was asked if this legislation will add 4,000 acres more. That's just an estimate. The maximum will probably be 4,000 acres.

A question was asked if the Couer d' Alene tribe has to go through the burn channels and do they have CRP land. He's not sure if they have CRP land but they do have their own staff for burning.

A question was asked how permission to burn is granted. The NRCS gives the permission. It is given by "a field by field" request and not by "a county by county."

MOTION:

Representative Stevenson made a motion that House Bill 593 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Andrus seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Jaquet and Representative Trail wished to be shown as voting No. Representative Shirley will be the floor sponsor.

MINUTES:

Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 20, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

H 516

Representative Trail told the committee House Bill 516, making dog fighting a felony, will be returned to sponsor. It will be revisited this summer and returned next session. The sponsor of the bill would like to get better proof that there are illegal dogfights in the state being conducted.

MOTION:

Representative Trail made a motion to hold House Bill 516 in committee. Representative Jaquet seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

PRESENTATION:

Candi Fitch, Executive Director, Idaho Apple Commission and the Idaho Cherry Commission gave their annual financial report. The Apple Commission's budget over the past several years has been drastically reduced. For last season, the commission's assessment was based on less than one million 40 pound boxes of apples, and this year's estimate is even less that it was last season. The Apple Commission was

involved in several local promotions the past year. That included booths at the Ag Pavilion, Taste of Idaho, and the Women's Fitness Celebration. The Commission hired someone from the Washington Research Station to help train and certify shippers to inspect for Coddling Moth on Taiwan bound apples. As always the Commission appreciates the University of Idaho research station in Parma.

The cherry crop had a good year last year. The prices were high but the volume was down. It would have been better if the cherries had more volume. The volume was down because of a wet spring and less pollination. The Cherry Commission's budget doesn't change from year to year.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 28, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 22, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

H 515 **Lloyd Knight**, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Cattle Association, presented House Bill 515. There are three parts to this proposed legislation. First it will raise the renewal fee for a brand recording from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Second it will raise the maximum fee for a brand inspection from \$1.00 to \$1.25. The third part will raise the minimum fee for a brand inspection certificate from \$10.00 to \$20.00.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion that House Bill 515 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Brackett seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Trail will be the floor sponsor.

H 596 **John Chatburn**, Deputy Administrator of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, presented House Bill 596. This proposed legislation amends the fur farm law. It clarifies no person shall possess, offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange, or importation into the state any fox, skunk or raccoon unless they are a fur farm, public park, zoo, museum, or educational institution. Included in the list of fur-bearing animals is the bobcat. Deleted from the list are karakul and nutria. This bill also revises provisions relating to the definitions of domestic fur-bearing animals and domestic cervidae to be in code with the Idaho Fish and Game Department's definition.

MOTION: Representative Jaquet made a motion that House Bill 596 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Jaquet will be the floor sponsor.

DISCUSSION: **Representative Bolz** lead a discussion regarding House Bills 511, 512,

595, and 597 with input from Rick Waitley, Agricultural Lobbyist and Ray Ineck, Legislative Auditor. It was decided to introduce the bills to the committee at the next meeting, March 2, 2006.

PRESENTATION: **Harold Johnson**, Vice Chair and Secretary, Idaho Aquaculture Commission, gave their annual report. The Commission was established in 2004. They currently consist of 18 producers. In December 2005, employees of the University of Idaho Hagerman Research Station assisted five commission members in applying for a \$20,000 Western SARE Grant through Utah State University. The project is titled "The Use of the Nutritional Aspects of Trout to Market Trout." They should know in late April if they are successful in their grant request.

Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, their annual income was \$1,627.78. This included a \$500.00 donation from SeaPac of Idaho. During the year there were no expenditures as postage, office supplies, labor, and travel expenses were all donated by members of the commission or the companies they represent.

A question was asked if Idaho is number one in anything in aquaculture. Yes, we are number one in trout production in the nation.

A question was asked how many people are employed around aquaculture in the Hagerman Valley. There's about 800.

A question was asked what percent of producers are members of the commission. The largest producer isn't a member and produces 50% of the products.

A question was asked if there is international competition. Yes, any imported fish species is competitive to Idaho trout.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 2, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of February 28, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

**BILL #: 511
512
595
597** **Representative Bolz** told the committee it has been decided to hold these four bills in committee for these four small commissions and print a new bill that will reflect a statute similar to one cities use regarding internal check signing.

MOTION: Representative Lake made a motion to hold House Bills 511, 512, 595, and 597 in committee. Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

BILL #: 568 **Representative Trail** presented House Bill 568. This proposed legislation would provide public records exemption to certain information relating to agricultural field burning. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture would provide advance notice and post information regarding agricultural field burning. This advance notice would be provided to law enforcement agencies and emergency services in an affected area regarding the specific date, time, and location of an approved agricultural field burning. The department would also post this information on its website for public notification purposes.

There have been several occasions where emergency personnel have been called out thinking it is for a fire, but it is a false alarm as someone is just burning their field. These false alarms put real emergencies on hold, can over time put wear and tear and their equipment, waste gas, and put their personnel's lives in danger. This bill's intent is to get cooperation between the agencies.

A question was asked if the Department of Agriculture knows exactly when the farmer will burn. The farmer first must apply for a permit. The Department gets weather information and contacts the farmer. There is a window of opportunity for the farmer to burn.

A question was asked if this time frame is published anywhere. Yes, the DEQ has a say on the burn day and they let the Department of Agriculture know the general areas.

A question was asked if burns are different from the north and south of the state. Northern counties have coordinators to work with the farmers. The southern counties don't.

A question was asked if this would apply statewide. Yes.

Martha Cottam spoke in favor of House Bill 568. She experienced property damage because of a controlled burn that burned out of control. They were not at home at the time of the burn. If they had known when the burn was to take place, they would have not left their property.

The following questions were asked by the committee and answered by George Robinson, Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

A question was asked if the farmer must burn right after they obtain a permit. No. Weather plays a big role.

A question was asked how does one apply for a permit. It can be done in the mail or fax.

A question was asked if the permits are approved the same day. It depends on the weather and the time of day the permit request is received.

A question was asked how difficult would it be to notify the sheriff's office after it is known that a burn will take place. Currently general information to the public is on their website within one hour.

Jennifer McFarland, Detective, Latah County Sheriff, spoke in favor of the bill. There were 183 fire calls in 2005. Out of these, 46 calls were regarding controlled burns. There were 100 man hours going to nonemergency calls.

A question was asked if Latah County has a burning ordinance. She didn't know.

Lee Flinn, Director, Conservation Voters for Idaho, spoke in favor of the bill. Making field burning information open to the public would allow outdoor activities to be planned.

Nathan Riggers, Farmer, Nez Perce Prairie Grass Growers, opposes House Bill 568. He briefly described the process he uses in the Nez Perce area where the farmer contacts the sheriff's office.

A question was asked who does your burn coordinator work for. He works for the Nez Perce Tribe.

Tony Park, American Lung Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Joe Anderson, Idaho Grain Producers, opposes House Bill 568. This

bill will put additional burden on the farmer. It is already voluntary.

A question was asked if propriety information is an issue. This bill will overturn the propriety information clause. The number of acreage and the variety of seed information are usually kept confidential.

Wayne Hurst, President, Idaho Grain Producers, opposes House Bill 568. The permit states to notify local law enforcement.

Rick Waitley, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Growers Association, opposes House Bill 568. He said communication about burning fields is the responsibility of the growers and the emergency services in their respective areas. It should not include an agency of state government.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion that House Bill 568 be held in committee. Representative Bolz seconded the motion. Representative Lake said he was surprised that Latah County doesn't have a burning ordinance. He suggested they go to their County Commissioners and get a burning ordinance in place. By voice vote, the motion passed. Representative Trail and Representative Jaquet wished to be shown as voting NO.

PRESENTATION: Gretchen Hyde, Executive Director, Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, presented the commission's annual budget. The committee has maintained its positive relationship with the landowners and public land permittees throughout Idaho. The IRRC continues to receive only a minimal number of requests for refunds. Keeping the support of the contributors will continue to be a priority. Another priority for the commission is education. They strive to develop effective long-term information and education programs that result in a public that understands and supports balanced, responsible management of Idaho's public and private rangelands. The education is done in several ways: classroom visits, posters, classroom kits, radio spots, brochures, and recently an interactive CD, *Home of the Range*. They are in the process of developing billboards to convey the same messages.

A question was asked why IRRC partnered with a Montana 4-H group. They are the ones who applied for the grant.

A question was asked where their revenue comes from for all the education. It all comes from the ranchers.

A question was asked if they have outreach to northern Idaho. Yes.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 6, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Trail, Representative Stevenson, Representative Brackett

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of March 2, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

BILL #: S1396 **Senator Kelly** presented Senate Bill 1396. This is a collaborative bill from animal control agencies and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state. This proposed legislation will address the problem of the costs associated with the caring for seized animals pending the outcome of the criminal proceedings for the animals' owner. The owner of such animals will choose to either pay the expense of boarding and caring for his animals while the animals are in custody or relinquish ownership of the animals. The average cost per day for boarding (excluding medical) is \$7.50 per animal. The bill also defines two types of animals. Production animals are cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, equines, domestic cervidae, llamas, alpacas, and furbearing animals kept for the purpose of commercial fur production. Companion animals include dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and other animals commonly kept as pets.

Representative Skippen spoke in favor of the bill. Gem County had an incident where 86 horses were abused and were seized by animal control. The care for these animals ran over \$100,000. That created a hardship for a small animal control facility.

A question was asked with this bill, who will identify the animals as being abused. Qualified inspectors usually from the Department of Agriculture will be used to identify the abused animals.

Brent Olmstead, Legislative Advisor, Milk Producers, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mike Kane, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Sheriffs Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Representative Shirley made a motion that Senate Bill 1396 be sent to

the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Jaquet seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed. Since Representative Skippen sponsored the bill, she will carry it on the floor.

PRESENTATION: **Deanna Sessions**, Idaho Dairy Product Commission, presented the commission's financial report. An audit was conducted by Moss-Adams LLP with no findings. In 2005, on-farm cash receipts from milk produced on Idaho farms amounted to \$1.439 billion dollars ranking it as the largest single sector in the state's agriculture industry. As of December 31, 2005, the state had 719 dairy farm operations; producing 10.129 billion pounds of milk from 470,730 milking cows. The state average is 655 cows per farm.

The commission is in the process of accepting applications for milk vendor machine grants for schools. This will put more dairy vending machines in Idaho schools. Currently there are only 33 machines. The school is required to pay \$500 up front and the commission will donate the remaining \$3,300.

Besides being active in the placing of vending machines in the schools, the commission also is interested in the coolers that keep the lunchroom milk cool. United Dairyman of Idaho has funded more than \$600,000 through the school milk cooler program to place more than 300 milk coolers.

A question was asked if the commission supplies vending machines for both elementary and secondary schools. Yes.

A question was asked if it is possible to have a motivated dairy person tour the state's schools and promote dairy products. Yes, that would be a great idea. Kimberly school has a teacher who would be an ideal candidate. Kimberly has a very active dairy consumption. The commission will conduct bone scans between Kimberly and Twin Falls teenagers to compare bone density.

A question was asked if the commission has done *Ag In The Classroom*. The commission would rather educate the teachers.

A question was asked if the flavored milk has more calories than regular milk. The flavored milks do contain some sugar but they still contain nine essential nutrients which is better than soft drinks.

A question was asked how many kids are allergic to dairy products. She wasn't sure.

PRESENTATION: **Russell Hendricks**, Idaho Farm Bureau, gave a PowerPoint presentation, *The Benefits of Clean Burning, Idaho Grown Fuels*. There are three reasons to support Idaho grown renewable fuels: rural economic development, improved air quality, and increased fuel security. Senate Bill 1364 will adjust fuel standards so gasoline in Idaho will include 10% ethanol and meet ASTM standard. This will become effective only when Idaho produces 30 million gallons of ethanol. The production of ethanol in Idaho will significantly strengthen our economy, particularly in rural areas, providing jobs, local tax base and new markets

for farm crops.

This proposal is exactly the same as the one in Minnesota, Hawaii, Montana, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

logen, a Canadian ethanol manufacturer, is looking at investing millions of dollars in a cellulosic ethanol production facility in Southeastern Idaho. It is estimated this plant would add \$25 million annually into the rural economy from the purchase of surplus straw. It will employ 100 permanent full-time jobs at the plant facility.

A question was asked if the logen project is on hold. Yes, it is until 2007.

A question was asked if aircraft can use ethanol. No. There's an FAA ruling that doesn't allow it's use in large airplanes; but any airplane that uses regular gasoline now will be able to use ethanol.

A question was asked if two-cycle engines can use ethanol. Yes, there's no problem with that. Any vehicle manufactured after 1980 can use 10% ethanol. Any vehicle manufactured before 1980 used leaded gas which has been discontinued, but those cars now use regular gas without any engine modification.

A question was asked if the dispenser at the pump will differ. No, it will look the same.

A question was asked what plants will be used. Barley, wheat, corn, and milo will be used. Residues of straw, cornstalks, and grass straw will be used too.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 8, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Jaquet and Representative Lake

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of March 6, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion to hold House Bill 600 in committee. Representative Pence seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

PRESENTATION: **John Hartman**, Chairman, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, presented the commission's year-end financial summary. The Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission oversees the disbursement of funds in three major categories of operation: research, education and promotion. Idaho is the second largest alfalfa seed production state behind California and is the leading producer of winter hardy alfalfa seed. Idaho's growing dairy industry and continued strong cattle industry have placed a demand on high quality forage crops. Idaho pays an assessment of \$0.0015/pound and in 2005, paid \$14,995 into the National Alfalfa Alliance.

A question was asked concerning the countries to which Idaho exports seed. A lot of seed is sent to Argentina. Idaho seeds do best in northern climates.

PRESENTATION: **Rick Waitley**, Administrator, Idaho Canola/Rapeseed Commission, gave their annual report. The commission collects a tax of ten cents per hundred weight on all canola, rapeseed, or mustard sold or contracted in the state. These funds are used in a variety of ways by implementing a program of research, promotion, and consumer and industry information. In 2005, the total assessment income was \$25,132. The commission in cooperation with the University of Idaho is continuing their work with a private consultant, Pat McGourty, in developing an action plan for registering mustard meal as a biopesticide with the EPA. Biodiesel is also developed from canola and mustard. It is the cleanest burning type of biodiesel that has been developed to date.

PRESENTATION: **Rick Waitley**, Idaho Ag In The Classroom, gave a brief update on the program. Through this program, teachers receive professional development training and classroom resources to enable them to convey the importance of agriculture to Idaho and the world. Practical and hands-on instructional materials promoting an understanding of agriculture are provided to educators. The Ag In The Classroom program is affiliated with the United State Department of Agriculture.

There will be an agricultural tour June 27th through June 30th. This tour will travel through eastern Idaho visiting dairies, cattle feedlot operations, a fresh pack and processing potato plant, honey industry, and the barley industry. The University of Idaho will allow two graduate credits for attending this tour. Several teacher summer workshops on agriculture and the environment will also be available during June and July. There were 189 teachers trained for Ag In The Classroom last year.

Forty states have the Ag In The Classroom program. California and Utah are the only two states that have as an aggressive program as Idaho's. Idaho has three reasons for their success: Idaho State Department of Agriculture, University of Idaho and BYU Idaho, and many other organization members. Another financial contributor to the program is the Idaho Agriculture licence plate.

Chairman Field, at the request of Rick Waitley, turned the gavel over to Vice Chairman Trail. Mr. Waitley presented Chairman Field with plaque recognizing her and her late husband for their dedication and contribution to Idaho's agriculture over the past many years.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Co-Chairman Trail adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 14, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Jaquet

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of March 8, 2006, as printed. Representative Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Field (23) put the committee at ease. Mike Field, her son, and other members of her family and several friends presented Chairman Field (23) a short presentation celebrating her life long public service to the community.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order.

**BILL #: H 771
H 772** **Representative Bolz** explained the revision that was made to these bills. The Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission and the Mint Commission will no longer require two signatures on their checks. Added language to the proposed bill states "The commission shall establish and maintain an adequate and reasonable system of internal accounting controls. The internal accounting controls shall be written, approved, and periodically reviewed by the commission."

**BILL #: H 773
H 774** **Representative Bolz** explained the revision that was made to these bills. The Canola and Rapeseed Commission and the Bean Commission will no longer require two signatures on their checks. Added language to the proposed bill states "The commission shall establish and maintain an adequate and reasonable system of internal accounting controls. The internal accounting controls shall be written, approved, and periodically reviewed by the commission." Also included in these two proposed bills, the commissions will file with the House of Representatives on or before January 15th of each year.

Rick Waitley, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Canola and Rapeseed Commission, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, spoke in favor of the bills. A proposed "commission financial procedures" has been created as a guideline for the commissions to use. It was taken to an independent auditor and received a favorable response.

A question was asked if other commissions have a similar format or do they use one. They have nothing as clearly stated as this. If this legislation is passed, they will have this to use as guidelines.

A question was asked if Mr. Waitley has gone to other commissions and asked if these guidelines are what they want. Anyone may take it to other commissions. This will be a template for policy to follow. He doesn't foresee any commissions having problems.

A question was asked if all commissions will use these guidelines. He will share it with all commissions who want it beyond the four mentioned today.

A question was asked if \$2,500 is the amount for all commissions for single signature check writing. That is the amount the Canola/Rapeseed Commission agreed upon.

Roger Batt, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Mint Commission, spoke in favor of the proposed bills. The Idaho Mint Commission will meet April 4, 2006, and he will suggest they adopt the financial procedures guidelines created by Mr. Waitley. Research checks are usually around \$2,500.

A question was asked if he felt protected enough with having only one signature on the Mint Commission's checks. Yes. With the audit, it serves even more than before.

Ray Ineck, Legislative Services, spoke in favor of the proposed bills. This is a great place to start for a commission. When they do their audits, they will suggest any changes. The audits are done every two years.

MOTION: Representative Stevenson made a motion that House Bill 771 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. Representative Andrus will be the floor sponsor.

MOTION: Representative Trail made a motion that House Bill 772 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Shirley seconded the motion. Representative Shirley will be the floor sponsor.

MOTION: Representative Shirley made a motion that House Bill 773 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. Representative Bolz will be the floor sponsor.

MOTION: Representative Shirley made a motion that House Bill 774 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. Representative Bolz will be the floor sponsor.

BILL #: H 775 **Representative Bolz** explained House Bill 775. This bill will eliminate one of the two districts for the Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission. There are now only five to seven counties in the district. By removing the district requirement, finding individuals willing to serve and represent the industry should become more manageable.

MOTION: Representative Brackett made a motion that House Bill 775 be sent to

the floor with a do pass recommendation. Representative Trail seconded the motion. Representative Pence will be the floor sponsor.

PRESENTATION: **Blaine Jacobson**, Executive Director, Idaho Wheat Commission, presented the commission's annual report. Revenue from the wheat tax during FY 2006 is expected to be \$1,450,000 while the approved FY 2005 spending budget is \$1,732,000. Last year approximately 1.2 million acres of wheat were harvested. The wheat crop adds nearly \$300 million to Idaho's economy each year. Half of Idaho's crop is exported. Top foreign destinations include Japan, the Philippines, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. The Volker Commission found the Australia Wheat Board to have been the single largest violator in the Iraq oil for food scandal. The ripple effect will impact wheat markets around the world in the coming months. Other countries are now more cautious. Rail transportation continues to be the single largest problem Idaho wheat growers are faced with. Several agricultural organizations will meet with ISDA on March 15th to explore whether there are any state and local actions that can be taken to help wheat growers have more transportation options.

PRESENTATION: **Bob Corbell**, Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, presented the commission's annual report. The commission is funded by acreage tax and a tax on grapes exported. Wine production brings \$55 million to the state economy. During the peak season, the wine industry employs 200 people. There are 26 wineries in the state. There are between 1,200 to 1,400 acres in production. Through research, it is now possible to use 80% less water. This is done by a drip system. The commission uses the research center in Parma. The commission supports the University of Idaho lab in the amount of \$500,000.

A question was asked how many wineries are in northern Idaho. There are two in Coeur d'Alene, one in Sandpoint, and a new one in Lewiston. The one in Lewiston is not up and running yet. It will open later this spring. It takes two years before a crop will produce grapes; three years to produce wine.

A question was asked how many acres are planted for grape juice. Juice grapes are a different crop than wine grapes. There are some grapes that are sent to Alaska and they make juice out of them.

A question was asked how long does a grape plant live. There are some in Europe that are 150 years old.

A question was asked if the growth between 2004 and 2005 was at a normal rate. Yes, it was. In ten years they hope to see 50 wineries in Idaho. Idaho has attracted world wide attention.

PRESENTATION: **Diana Caldwell**, Idaho Bean Commission, presented the commission's annual report. The Idaho Bean Commission has been serving Idaho growers and dealers for 49 years. The commission consists of eight members: 4 growers and 4 dealers. They receive no money from the general fund. The commission gets their money from a bean tax. For 2005, the commission received \$213,000 from bean tax receipts. Idaho is sixth in the nation for bean production with pinto beans the

favorite crop. Bean planting is expected to be high this year because of the amount of water available.

2005 highlights of activities of the Bean Commission include: Ag in the Classroom, Ag Pavilion, Magic and Treasure Valley Bean Schools, food shows in Michigan and Idaho, and recipes and nutritional information added to the Idaho Bean Commission website.

The 2006 budget (\$179,074) is as follows: 6% education and information, 44% market development, 14% industry partnership, 19% research, and 17% administration/policy development.

The Bean Commission meets six to seven times a year. But the commission suggest adoption of House Bill 774 for the convenience of having one signature for their check writing.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 16, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Stevenson

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Bolz moved to accept the minutes of March 14, 2006, as printed. Representative Trail seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

PRESENTATION: **Rick Stott**, Chairman, National Animal Identification System, explained the program. The National Animal Identification (NAIS) is a state-federal-industry program administered by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. For disease control and prevention in our domestic livestock herds, the NAIS is intended to trace back to all locations where a suspect animal has been during its life within 48-hours. This program will also provide information on all animals that came in contact with the suspect animal at each premise.

The program is voluntary so producers can now participate in the program to test the system and offer feedback to help ensure that practical solutions evolve. The NAIS will be established through a phased-in approach by implementing these key components: premise identification, animal identification, and animal tracking. The program will be compatible with the identification technologies in Canada and Mexico. As the program is phased in, ongoing efforts to harmonize animal identification with other countries will facilitate safe trade in animals with other countries.

A question was asked how does Canada and Europe fund their programs. Australia and Canada is driven by industry. Europe is driven by their government.

A question was asked if this program will include dogs and cats. No. It will focus on production animals because they have the biggest health risk. This includes cattle, pigs, horses, chickens, buffalo, and elk.

A question was asked if the program will include 4-H animals. Yes, when it leaves the premise. 4-H learns about the industry and this would also be a part of the learning experience. All 4-H animals in the state for the last 20 years, have been identified.

A question was asked if using a group identification is sufficient. Yes, it is in some situations. When they are co-mingled as a group, that makes sense to be group identified. Just as long as they stay together.

A question was asked if a group is done, couldn't branding be sufficient. Brands are unique but can be repeated across states.

A question was asked if the 30 cents per animal includes the tag. No, that's the cost of the computer tracking. The cost of the tag is \$2.00.

A question was asked how extensive will this program go down. Will it include hobby farmers? As long as they raise the animal and it stays on their place, no.

A question was asked if the \$2.00 tags are electronic. Yes. The tags have a 15 digit number in them.

A question was asked why branding alone is not sufficient to trace the animal. With the electronic tag, the animal can be traced within 48 hours. Using just a brand would take longer.

A question was asked if the program will include pleasure horses. No.

PRESENTATION: **Stan Boyd**, Idaho Wool Growers Association, presented the annual report for the Sheep, Lamb and Wool Promotion, Research and Education Program. Idaho ranks 7th in the nation for the total number of breeding stock which amounted to 225,000 head. Idaho ranks 8th in the nation for the production of wool which amounted to 2,125,000 pounds. The current assessment on wool is eight cents per pound. The assessment is collected at the time of sale by the wool buyer. The balance for FY 2005 is \$13,930.74. Expenditures through the year included: the Idaho Wool Growers Bulletin, Idaho Wool Growers Convention, Wool & Lamb Quality Improve Program, Industry Public Awareness Program and Administration of Programs. Two successful programs were "Trailing of the Sheep" in Hailey and the Idaho Wool Growers program at Ste. Chapelle.

A question was asked in the last 10 years, has the number of sheep and the pounds of wool, increased or decreased. Idaho peaked in the 1930s. It has leveled off in the last five to six years. There are more restaurants serving lamb. The lamb market is in a slump right now but hopefully it will do better in the summer.

BILL #: HJM 19 **Representative McKague** presented HJM 19. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to forego implementation of the National Animal Identification System or to delay the issuance of the proposed rule which will set forth NAIS requirements now targeted for July 2006 to afford the public additional information relating to the proposed mandatory program and additional time for public comment.

A question was asked if Representative McKague knows what the animal organizations think of National Animal Identification System. Some are for it and some are against it. They need more time to make a decision about it.

Representative Shepherd spoke in favor of HJM 19. He has gotten

several emails from people in his district expressing concern over the bill. There are a few people who know about it and there needs to be more time to implement it.

A question was asked if today's presentation with Mr. Stott helped clarify some concerns. Yes. It won't be mandatory and it doesn't include pets.

Jim Little, Rancher, spoke in opposition of HJM 19. The program should move ahead; incase of a disease, the animal can be traced back. Tracing will be done only when the animal is put into commerce. The eastern states do not have brands.

Pat Burnam, Idaho Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of HJM 19. There is concern that NAIS is a form of invasion of privacy. Not only will the animal information be available, but also information about the owner will be out there.

Mike Webster, President, Idaho Cattle Association, spoke in opposition of HJM 19. This program is industry driven and not government driven. It will be used to trace a diseased animal so they won't have to quarantine a large area.

A question was asked what the cattlemen think of being fined if they don't comply. It is a voluntary program right now. You can't fine anyone on a voluntary basis. Some day it may become mandatory.

A question was asked where are we identifying a premise. That is up to the producer. Some ranchers have more than one premise and some have just one.

A question was asked if there is the capability to scan cattle as they run past. Yes. The technology is there, but it can be improved.

Rick Stott, Chairman, National Animal Identification System, spoke in opposition of the bill. With the industry being involved and not the government, it will be better. But if we hesitate, the bureaucrats will take hold of it.

Dustin Miller, Idaho Farm Bureau, spoke in opposition of the bill. Let industry push this program forward.

MOTION: Representative Brackett made a motion that HJM 19 be held in committee. Representative Trail seconded the motion. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 20, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES: Representative Lake moved to accept the minutes of March 16, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

PRESENTATION: **John Orr**, Chairman of the Idaho State Pesticide Management Commission (ISPMC), presented the commission's annual report. The commission was created to assist minor crop producers to obtain necessary pesticide registrations for critical pest control needs. The commission is not funded by the state. The original funds for ISPMC came from a Specialty Crop grant through ISDA. Those funds were depleted in the two years they supported research.

After the commission's first audit was completed, the auditors discovered that the previous agreement related to Specialty Crop Funds had an allocation of \$20,000 remaining at ISDA. Currently, paperwork is being completed to secure the money. These funds will be utilized to keep the commission viable. A working committee has met to explore grants and other opportunities. The commission would like to continue to oversee research related to the charge specified in the Idaho Code for ISPMC.

H 785 **Representative Trail** explained House Bill 785. This proposed legislation would require the posting of pesticide safety information for agricultural workers at the location where drinking water is made available for workers. This poster would be written in both English and Spanish. It will also include emergency medical care information. Application notices will be posted too. This proposed legislation will help reduce confusion at the job site.

Representative Jaquet said this bill will clarify the federal rules that are currently ineffective.

Representative Martinez said he was pleased with the way the money was spent from the fines imposed on the farmer from the incident last summer. But this shouldn't be continued. The workers need to know of the dangerous environment they work in.

Representative Trail returned to the podium for questions to the bill.

A question was asked regarding page 1, line 14. That states the employer shall display the safety information. Then on page 2, line 21 it states that the operator of the property shall ensure signs be posted. Are you shifting the responsibility? The operator has the responsibility.

A question was asked concerning labels. Most labels do not contain a "safe to enter" date on them but they do contain warnings.

A question was asked if he could give an example. No, he's not a pesticide expert.

A question was asked regarding the Caldwell incident last summer. Could it have been averted by using this recommendation? Proposals are basically for lack of communication. This would not have helped them, but the posting would show where they can get help.

A question was asked regarding the 155 pesticides. How many have *danger* on their labels and require posting? Not all of them require posting.

Erik Johnson, Lawyer, spoke in favor of the bill. Usually farm workers don't know they are in an area of pesticides. This would make the requirements clearer.

Ed Keener, Pastor, spoke in favor of the bill. Pass this bill as moral legislation.

Graciela Fonseca, Mujeres Unidas, spoke in favor of the bill.

Al Sanchez spoke in favor of the bill. There should be warning signs at the entrance of the field for the workers.

Kathryn McNary, ICAN, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sam Byrd, Center for Community and Justice, spoke in favor of the bill. This will affect between 25,000 to 30,000 farm workers in Idaho.

Lee Flinn, Conservation Voters for Idaho, spoke in favor of the bill.

Fawn Pettet, Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise, spoke in favor of the bill.

Adam Ramirez, ICAN, spoke in favor of the bill.

Father Camacho spoke in favor of the bill.

Dan Dixon, Wilder Farm Labor Committee, spoke in opposition of the bill. The farm workers are not unprotected in the current law. Education needs to be the focus.

The question was asked where the label is located in the field. Farmers are required to keep the information at a central location.

A question was asked how the information is passed out if it is centrally

located. He gets a gathering before work and information is exchanged.

A question was asked would this legislation have helped the incident last summer. Education is best, not more legislation.

Ermelinda Garcia, ICAN, spoke in favor of the bill.

Roger Batt, Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association and Idaho Mint Growers Association, spoke in opposition of the bill. You can not prevent human error by legislation.

Amy Hertzfeld spoke in favor of the bill. Both posting of warnings and communication needs to be done.

Wayne Hurst, Idaho Grain Producers, spoke in opposition of the bill. The pesticide application license teaches the farmer the requirements and regulations.

Greg Payne, Idaho Mint Growers Association, spoke in opposition of the bill. The Caldwell incident was caused by human error. In 19 years of farming, this is the only incident he has ever seen.

A question was asked if posting a warning sign near the water location requires more effort on the part of a farmer. No.

A question was asked would there be a problem to include on the same warning sign, medical information. No problem.

A question was asked if Mr. Payne puts his postings near the water location. No, he doesn't do the postings; his field boss does the postings.

Micaela Montano spoke in favor of the bill.

Norma Alvarez spoke in favor of the bill.

Jose Morales spoke in favor of the bill. Signs are a way of life. We have signs every where.

Reverend Elizabeth Beck, Pastor, spoke in favor of the bill.

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, spoke in opposition of the bill. This is a training issue, not more regulations.

Matt Haney, ICAN, spoke in favor of the bill. The federal law does not require an entry time.

Representative Bolz clarified that federal law does require an entry time by reading from the *EPA How to comply With the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides* page 19.

A question was asked if ICAN has done any training for the farm workers. No. ICAN is a small nonprofit organization.

Mark Duffin, Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association, spoke in opposition

of the bill. There's no need to be redundant with the federal standards.

Lloyd Knight, Idaho Cattle Association, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Mary Ellen Nourse spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: **Representative Jaquet** made a motion that House Bill 785 be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Seconded by **Representative Pence**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Representative Andrus** made a substitute motion to hold House Bill 785 in committee. **Representative Bolz** seconded the motion.

Representative Andrus said the Caldwell incident was human error. The law is already there and we don't need more regulation.

Representative Jaquet spoke in opposition of the substitute motion. We need to think this is about people. The sign at the water area and posting an entry time isn't a big undertaking.

Representative Stevenson spoke in favor of the substitute motion. The pesticide poster would have to be huge for all the listings that are requested by the bill.

Representative Bolz spoke in favor of the substitute motion. The way the bill is currently written adds confusion. The bill needs some tweaking.

A role call vote was requested.

Voting Aye: Chairman Field (23), Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett

Voting Nay: Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Jauquet, Pence

The substitute motion was passed.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 22, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment of the House

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Jaquet

GUESTS: Please refer to the presenters highlighted below and the attached committee sign-in sheet.

Chairman Field (23) called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Tony Bennett**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, presented the commission's annual report. The Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee, chaired by the Idaho State Conservation Commission, recommendations and actions for 2005 were:

- Explore avenues to increase carbon sequestration within the state
- Enhance carbon sequestration research relevant to Idaho
- Evaluate economic benefits to Idaho landowners and the state through carbon markets and initiate a carbon market trade
- Reconfigure advisory committee to include a geologist, tribal representative, and an economist

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Big Sky Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership and the Idaho Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee on January 10, 2005. Idaho is now working in a partnership with Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming to define characteristics of promising terrestrial and geologic storage sites. Other priorities defined by the agreement include the identification and application of future greenhouse gas measurement and verification technologies and identification of carbon sequestration technologies and/or practices.

The committee will apply again next year for a USDA research grant since they missed getting one this past year. A subcommittee has been formed to help with biofuels and ethanol. They have had one meeting and plan to meet again within the next two months.

The question was asked. How can a farmer make money from this? They can contact their local soil conservation district.

A question was asked regarding other countries. Are they paying large amounts of money? Yes, they are. There is potential here for our farmers.

A question was asked if there are any companies in the United States that are required to purchase carbon. No.

The question was asked. Why would a farmer participate? They do this to make money.

A question was asked regarding the companies that are doing it now. Are they spending sequestration credits? They are trying to get into the game early.

A question was asked regarding crops. What crops are being considered? Dry land crops in any location that are direct seed and no till show interest.

PRESENTATION: **Ben Simko**, Program Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, presented a PowerPoint on *ISDA Potato Tuberworm Detection Survey, 2005 Result and 2006 Plans*. This invasive insect has the potential to be a threat to Idaho's potato crops. Milder winters, cultural practices (both in the field and storage), a new species biotype, and insecticide chemistry induced insect pest shifts, contribute to the reason for the emerging threat. The one half inch worm damages foliage and later gets into the potato. This insect moves from the field and into the storage sheds.

Initially, 36 traps were placed throughout the state this past summer. In early fall, 437 traps were placed in major production counties including fields and packing shed locations. No infested tubers, live PTW larvae or damaged tubers have been found to date. Traps in Payette, Elmore, and Canyon Counties have caught tuber moths. Currently, no potato tuber moths have been captured east of Elmore County.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture plans to repeat the statewide trap detection, repeat use of FF&V grade inspections, explore possible cooperation with the USDA, and work with the University of Idaho.

The question was asked. Do they move by wind? The insects move in three ways: one; infested tubers, two; moths fly short distances or get into the wind current, and three; moths hitch a ride on vehicles.

The question was asked. Where did the 1959 specimen originate? The exact location is unknown, just Ada County.

The question was asked. How are they stopped? ISDA is currently in the detection mode. If they find any, they will advise the farmer to spray. Storage potatoes are a concern too.

A question was asked regarding a rumor that the Hermiston area is paying \$150 - \$200 an acre to spray. Yes, if additional spraying is required, it can cost that much.

The question was asked. Does the tuber worm need to eat only potatoes to survive? No. They can eat tubers in the winter and other plants in the night shade family for the leaves other times of the year.

The question was asked. Will the tuber worm will be seen in seed

potatoes? There are none in the seed potato production. There maybe some in other seed production areas out of state. Idaho is suspect.

A question was asked regarding California having a problem because they are a warm state. They are known to be in areas of warm states. It is an ongoing problem in California.

The question was asked. In Magic Valley, is there enough personnel to help? It is a challenge.

A question was asked regarding training available for consultants. There has been outreach in Idaho Falls, Treasure Valley, and the potato grower's industry. This is for their field men for the coming season.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 30, 2006

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 416

MEMBERS: Chairman Field (23), Vice Chairman Trail, Representatives Lake, Stevenson, Bolz, Shirley, Andrus, Brackett, Jaquet, Pence

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Lake

GUESTS: None

Representative Field (23) called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

MOTION: Representative Bolz made a motion to accept the minutes of March 22, 2006, as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Representative Field (23) thanked the committee for all their hard work in the Agricultural Affairs Committee this session. She also thanked the secretary and page.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was sine die at 3:25 p.m.

Representative Frances Field (23)
Chairman

Vickie Winkel
Secretary